

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 SS-20 INR-10 /051 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:MGWYGANT:BA

APPROVED BY AF/W-JOHN L. LOUGHRAN

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P 081814Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 026495

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DM

SUBJ: POSSIBLE CHANGES IN MRGD

REF: COTONOU 0190

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM LOUGHRAN

1. I WOULD PREFER SHARE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS BY LETTER, BUT IN VIEW POUCH DELAYS AND IMMINENCE POSSIBLE CHANGE OUT-LINED COTONOU 190, I FIND I MUST USE CABLE.

2. WE NOTE FROM FBIS REPORTING COTONOU DOMESTIC SERVICE FEB 1 THAT MAJOR RICHARD RODRIGUEZ HAS BEEN NAMED BY PRESIDENT KEREKOU AS ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF. IN LIGHT COTONOU 190 WE WONDER IF THIS INDICATES MOVE BY KEREKOU TO PLACE SOUTHERNER, WHOM WE UNDERSTAND FROM AUGUST PORT CONTROVERSY HAS BEEN FRIEND OF PRESIDENT, IN POSITION TO KEEP EYE ON RESTIVE SOUTHERN ACTIVISTS IN CABINET. RADICALS VERSUS MODERATES STRUGGLE WITHIN CABINET HAD APPEARED TO LESSEN WITH REMOVAL BEHETON AND BADGEGOUME LAST FALL. DOES ARREST BADGOGOUME REPORTED REFTTEL, COUPLED WITH PUBLIC EXCHANGE ACCUSATIONS, INDICATE RE-SURGENCE RADICAL STRENGTH WITHIN OFFICER CORPS?

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3. IT HAD APPEARED FACTIONALISM TRADITIONALLY RIFE WITHIN

OFFICER CORPS, WAS BEING SUCCESSFULLY SUBORDINATED TO
COMMON REALIZATION THAT ONLY HOPE FOR EFFECTIVE DAHOMEY

GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ARMY COHESION. IS DAHOMEY REVERTING
TO PATTERN PERTAINING BEFORE OCTOBER 1972 COUP? WE NOTE
KEREKOU HAS THUS FAR BEEN NOTABLY ADEPT IN BALANCING OFF
FACTIONS AND DIVISIONS IN PURSUIT OF DAHOMEY "REVOLUTION".
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